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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,440	09/10/2003	Tomohiro Fuse	14470.0003US01	7506
23552	7590	04/07/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			OLSON, LARS A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/660,440

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

FUSE, TOMOHIRO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Claim 20 is canceled because it does not further limit independent claim 16, which already incorporates all of the language of claim 20 in lines 7-9.
3. On line 10 of page 16 of the Specification, the phrase "see Fig. 4" has been deleted and replaced with the phrase "see Fig. 3".
4. On line 14 of page 30 of the Specification, the phrase "guide groove 106" has been deleted and replaced with the phrase "guide groove 105".
5. Claim 19 has been previously canceled.

### **Reasons for Allowance**

6. Claims 1-18 are allowed.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The personal watercraft as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a watercraft that is comprised of a hull, an engine, a jet propeller that is driven by said engine, a jet nozzle that is disposed on a rear side of said jet propeller, an annular trim ring that is mounted onto a rear portion of said jet nozzle with left and right support

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shafts in order to be vertically swingable, and a steering nozzle that is mounted onto said trim ring with upper and lower support shafts in order to be swingable in left and right directions, said steering nozzle being mounted onto said jet nozzle in order to be swingable vertically and in left and right directions, where said jet nozzle defines a recessed portion, said trim ring defines a through-hole, and a positioning pin is provided that is insertable into said through-hole and said recessed portion, resulting in an axis of said steering nozzle that is made to coincide with an axis of said jet nozzle.

8. The prior art as disclosed by Henmi (US 5,803,775) shows the use of a watercraft that is comprised of an engine, a jet propeller, a jet nozzle, an annular trim ring that is mounted on a rear portion of said jet nozzle with left and right support shafts, and a steering nozzle that is mounted on said trim ring with upper and lower support bolts. Kobayashi (US 4,252,075) discloses a watercraft with a steering nozzle that is mounted to a jet nozzle by means of upper and lower support shafts that are positioned so that the heads of said support shafts are directed toward said jet nozzle. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a personal watercraft that is comprised of a hull, an engine, a jet propeller that is driven by said engine, a jet nozzle that is disposed on a rear side of said jet propeller, an annular trim ring that is mounted onto a rear portion of said jet nozzle with left and right support shafts in order to be vertically swingable, and a steering nozzle that is mounted onto said trim ring with upper and lower support shafts in order to be swingable in left and right directions, said steering nozzle being mounted onto said jet nozzle in order to be swingable vertically and in left and right directions, where said jet nozzle defines a recessed portion, said

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trim ring defines a through-hole, and a positioning pin is provided that is insertable into said through-hole and said recessed portion, resulting in an axis of said steering nozzle that is made to coincide with an axis of said jet nozzle.

**Conclusion**

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

lo

March 8, 2005

LARS A. OLSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

*Lars Olson*  
3/8/05